

Message Text

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46

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 STR-04 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00

EB-07 EA-07 FRB-03 INR-07 IO-13 NEA-10 NSAE-00

USIA-06 OPIC-03 SP-02 TRSE-00 CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01

AGRE-00 OMB-01 /088 W

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R 041751Z DEC 76

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8438

INFO USMISSION OECD PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 19589

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: ETRD, OECD

SUBJECT: CHAIRMANSHIP OF OECD HIGH LEVEL GROUP ON
COMMODITIES

REF: OECD PARIS 35756

1. JOHN STEELE IS KNOWN TO EMBASSY OFFICERS FROM HIS PREVIOUS JOBS AS SHIPPING COUNSELOR IN THE BRITISH EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON AND UNDER SECRETARY FOR SHIPPING POLICY IN THE DEPARTMENT OF TRADE. THEY REGARD HIM AS INTELLIGENT, PLEASANT AND MORE THAN ORDINARILY PRO-AMERICAN. STEELE'S ENTIRE CAREER UNTIL QUITE RECENTLY WAS IN TRANSPORTATION AND HE THEREFORE DOES NOT HAVE A DEEP BACKGROUND IN TRADE OR COMMODITY QUESTIONS. HOWEVER, HIS PREDECESSOR, PETER PRESTON, WHILE ACKNOWLEDGING STEELE'S LACK OF EXPERIENCE, HAS WARMLY RECOMMENDED HIM TO US AS BEING LIKELY TO LEARN QUICKLY AND BE EFFECTIVE.

2. ONE EMBASSY OFFICER WHO KNOWS BOTH STEELE AND STIG BRATTSTROM CONSIDERS THE FORMER MORE CAPABLE, THOUGH WITH LESS PERTINENT BACKGROUND EXPERIENCE. ANOTHER
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EMBASSY OFFICER KNOWS PAT DONOVAN AND REGARDS HIM AS

RATHER HOT TEMPERED AND HAVING DISPLAYED HIS VIOLENT
ANTI-CAP VIEW IN INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS TOO OFTEN TO
BE A LIKELY CHOICE FOR THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE HIGH
LEVEL GROUP.

ARMSTRONG

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Message Attributes

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To: STATE
Type: TE
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